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Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Pedro **Cardoso** (Brazil)

I. Introduction

1. At its 17th plenary meeting, on 21 September 2005, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Committee considered the item at its 36th to 38th and 40th to 42nd meetings, on 9, 10, 15 and 17 November. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/60/SR.36-38 and 40-42).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2005;[1]

(b) Report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[2]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa (A/60/293);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors (A/60/300);

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/60/12).
[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 12A* (A/60/12/Add.1).

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(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States (A/60/276);

(f) Letter dated 17 October from the representative of Yemen to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué of the annual coordination meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held at United Nations Headquarters on 23 September 2005 (A/60/440-S/2005/658 and Corr.2).

4. At the 36th meeting, on 9 November, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees made an introductory statement (see A/C.3/60/SR.36). The Committee engaged in a dialogue with the High Commissioner, in which the representatives of the Sudan, Pakistan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Georgia, Belarus and Indonesia participated (see A/C.3/60/SR.36).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.61

5. At the 40th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Jordan, also on behalf of Portugal, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (A/C.3/60/L.61). Subsequently, Andorra, Benin, South Africa and Timor-Leste joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 42nd meeting, on 17 November, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.61 without a vote (see para. 17, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.64

8. At the 41st meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Nigeria, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, Austria, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Greece, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa" (A/C.3/60/L.64). Subsequently, Andorra, Azerbaijan, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Iceland, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

9. At its 42nd meeting, on 17 November, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

10. At the same meeting, following a statement by the representative of Nigeria (see A/C.3/60/SR.42), the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.64 without a vote (see para. 17, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.65

11. At the 40th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Finland, on behalf of Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Zambia, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (A/C.3/60/L.65). Subsequently, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, China, Colombia, the Comoros, Eritrea, Ghana, Guyana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Madagascar, Micronesia (Federated States of), Namibia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Slovakia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

12. At the same meeting, the representative of Finland orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 5, the words "so as to strengthen refugee protection in Latin America and to ensure timely and effective responses to situations of forced displacement" were deleted from the end of the paragraph;

(b) Operative paragraph 9, which read:

"9. *Urges* all States and international organizations and institutions, with the support of the international community, to enhance and to become more effective in their efforts to address the root causes of forced displacement, and recognizes the catalytic role of the Office of the High Commissioner in this regard",

was deleted and the remaining paragraphs renumbered accordingly.

13. At its 42nd meeting, on 17 November, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

14. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.65, as orally revised without a vote (see para. 17, draft resolution III).

15. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Egypt and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; after the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Azerbaijan (see A/C.3/60/SR.42).

D. Draft decision by the Chairman

16. At the 42nd meeting, on 17 November, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee took note of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors (A/60/300) (see para. 18).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

17. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council decisions 2005/243 of 22 July 2005 and 2005/314 of 21 October 2005 concerning the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Taking note also of the requests regarding the enlargement of the Executive Committee contained in the letter dated 8 March 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General[1] and the letter dated 12 September 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,[2]

1. *Decides* to increase the number of members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from sixty-eight to seventy States;

2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to elect the additional members at its resumed organizational session for 2006.

[1] E/2005/46.
[2] E/2005/93.

Draft resolution II
Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 59/172 of 20 December 2004,

Recalling also the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969[1] and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,[2]

Reaffirming that the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,[3] together with the 1967 Protocol thereto,[4] as complemented by the Organization of African Unity Convention of 1969, remains the foundation of the international refugee protection regime in Africa,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General[5] and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[6]

2. *Notes* the need for African States to address resolutely the root causes of all forms of forced displacement in Africa and to foster peace, stability and prosperity throughout the African continent so as to forestall refugee flows;

3. *Notes with great concern* that, despite all of the efforts made so far by the United Nations, the African Union and others, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa remains precarious, and calls upon States and other parties to armed conflict to observe scrupulously the letter and spirit of international humanitarian law, bearing in mind that armed conflict is one of the principal causes of forced displacement in Africa;

4. *Welcomes* decision EX/CL/Dec.197 (VII) on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa adopted by the Executive Council of the African Union at its seventh ordinary session, held at Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya from 28 June to 2 July 2005;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and commends the Office of the High Commissioner for its ongoing efforts, with the support of the international community, to assist African countries of asylum and to respond to the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

6. *Recognizes* that, among refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons, women and children are the majority of the population affected by conflict and bear the brunt of atrocities and other consequences of conflict, and calls upon States to promote and protect the human rights of all refugees and other persons of concern, paying special attention to those with specific needs, and to tailor their protection responses appropriately;

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1001, No. 14691.
[2] Ibid., vol. 1520, No. 26363.
[3] Ibid., vol. 189, No. 2545.
[4] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.
[5] A/60/293.
[6] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/60/12).

7. *Reiterates* the importance of the full and effective implementation of standards and procedures, including monitoring and reporting mechanisms as outlined in Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005, to better address the specific protection needs of refugee children and adolescents and to safeguard rights and, in particular, to ensure adequate attention to unaccompanied and separated children and children affected by armed conflict, including former child soldiers in refugee settings, as well as in the context of voluntary repatriation and reintegration measures;

8. *Recognizes* the importance of early registration and effective registration systems and censuses as a tool of protection and as a means to enable the quantification and assessment of needs for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance and to implement appropriate durable solutions;

9. *Recalls* the conclusion on registration of refugees and asylum-seekers adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its fifty-second session,[7] notes the many forms of harassment faced by refugees and asylum-seekers who remain without any form of documentation attesting to their status, recalls the responsibility of States to register refugees on their territories, reiterates in this context the central role which early and effective registration and documentation can play, guided by protection considerations, in enhancing protection and supporting efforts to find durable solutions, and calls upon the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as appropriate, to help States to conduct this procedure should they be unable to register refugees on their territory;

10. *Calls upon* the international community, including States and the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant United Nations organizations, within their respective mandates, to take concrete action to meet the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons and to contribute generously to projects and programmes aimed at alleviating their plight and facilitating durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons;

11. *Reaffirms* the importance of timely and adequate assistance and protection for refugees, also reaffirms that assistance and protection are mutually reinforcing and that inadequate material assistance and food shortages undermine protection, notes the importance of a rights and community-based approach in engaging constructively with individual refugees and their communities to achieve fair and equitable access to food and other forms of material assistance, and expresses concern in regard to situations in which minimum standards of assistance are not met, including those in which adequate needs assessments have yet to be undertaken;

12. *Also reaffirms* that respect by States for their protection responsibilities towards refugees is strengthened by international solidarity involving all members of the international community and that the refugee protection regime is enhanced through committed international cooperation in a spirit of solidarity and burden and responsibility-sharing among all States;

13. *Further reaffirms* that host States have the primary responsibility to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, and calls upon States, in

[7] Ibid., *Fifth-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/56/12/Add.1), chap. III, sect. B.

cooperation with international organizations, within their mandates, to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection and, in particular, to ensure that the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps is not compromised by the presence or the activities of armed elements or used for purposes that are incompatible with their civilian character;

14. *Condemns* all acts that pose a threat to the personal security and well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers, such as refoulement, unlawful expulsion and physical attacks, calls upon States of refuge, in cooperation with international organizations, where appropriate, to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, including the humane treatment of asylum-seekers, notes with interest that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has continued to take steps to encourage the development of measures to better ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue these efforts, in consultation with States and other relevant actors;

15. *Deplores* the continuing violence and insecurity which constitute an ongoing threat to the safety and security of staff members of the Office of the High Commissioner and other humanitarian organizations and an obstacle to the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and the ability of its implementing partners and other humanitarian personnel to discharge their respective humanitarian functions, urges States parties to conflict and all other relevant actors to take all necessary measures to protect activities related to humanitarian assistance, prevent attacks on and kidnapping of national and international humanitarian workers and ensure the safety and security of the personnel and property of the Office of the High Commissioner and that of all humanitarian organizations discharging functions mandated by the Office of the High Commissioner, and calls upon States to investigate fully any crime committed against humanitarian personnel and bring to justice the persons responsible for such crimes;

16. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the African Union, subregional organizations and all African States, in conjunction with agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community, to strengthen and revitalize existing partnerships and forge new ones in support of the international refugee protection system, notes with interest the result of the humanitarian response review, welcomes the proposals made by the Secretary-General and the General Assembly to strengthen the United Nations humanitarian system, and takes note of deliberations by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee aimed at following up on the humanitarian response review and bringing about greater consistency in the response to humanitarian emergencies;

17. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the international community and other concerned entities to intensify their support to African Governments through appropriate capacity-building activities, including training of relevant officers, disseminating information about refugee instruments and principles, providing financial, technical and advisory services to accelerate the enactment or amendment and implementation of legislation relating to refugees, strengthening emergency response and enhancing capacities for the coordination of humanitarian activities;

18. *Reaffirms* the right of return and the principle of voluntary repatriation, appeals to countries of origin and countries of asylum to create conditions that are conducive to voluntary repatriation, recognizes that, while voluntary repatriation remains the pre-eminent solution, local integration and third-country resettlement, where appropriate and feasible, are also viable options for dealing with the situation of African refugees who, owing to prevailing circumstances in their respective countries of origin, are unable to return home, and welcomes in this regard the conclusion on local integration adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its fifty-sixth session;[8]

19. *Reaffirms* that voluntary repatriation should not necessarily be conditioned on the accomplishment of political solutions in the country of origin in order not to impede the exercise of the refugees' right to return, and recognizes that the voluntary repatriation and reintegration process is normally guided by the conditions in the country of origin, in particular that voluntary repatriation can be accomplished in conditions of safety and dignity;

20. *Welcomes* the development by the High Commissioner, in cooperation with other United Nations agencies and development actors, of the framework for durable solutions, aimed at promoting lasting solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, including the "4Rs" approach (repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction) to sustainable return;

21. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide financial and material assistance that allows for the implementation of community-based development programmes that benefit both refugees and host communities, as appropriate, in agreement with host countries and consistent with humanitarian objectives, and recognizes that promoting the self-reliance of refugees from the outset will contribute towards enhancing the ability of refugee communities to become self-reliant, as and when appropriate, with adequate support from the international community for the host country and the refugees living there;

22. *Appeals* to the international community to respond positively, in the spirit of solidarity and burden and responsibility-sharing, to the third-country resettlement needs of African refugees, in this regard notes the importance of using resettlement strategically, as part of situation-specific comprehensive responses to refugee situations, and to this end encourages interested States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant partners to make full use of the Multilateral Framework of Understandings on Resettlement, where appropriate;[9]

23. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure affected by refugees in countries of asylum;

24. *Urges* the international community, in the spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing, to continue to fund generously the refugee programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and, taking into account the substantially increased needs of programmes in Africa, inter alia, as a result of repatriation

[8] Ibid., *Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/60/12/Add.1), chap. III, sect. C.

[9] Ibid., *Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/59/12), chap. III, para. 23.

possibilities, to ensure that Africa receives a fair and equitable share of the resources designated for refugees;

25. *Encourages* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and interested States to identify protracted refugee situations which might lend themselves to resolution through the development of specific, multilateral, comprehensive and practical approaches to resolving such refugee situations, including improvement of international burden and responsibility-sharing and realization of durable solutions, within a multilateral context;

26. *Expresses grave concern* about the plight of internally displaced persons in Africa, calls upon States to take concrete action to pre-empt internal displacement and to meet the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons, recalls in that regard the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,[10] and encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to explore, with other relevant actors, the feasibility of taking on coordination responsibilities for clusters related to the protection of internally displaced persons, camp management and shelter in conflict situations as part of a broader United Nations coordination effort in support of United Nations humanitarian coordinators, without prejudice to its core mandate of refugee protection and assistance;

27. *Invites* the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons to continue his ongoing dialogue with Member States and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in accordance with his mandate, and to include information thereon in his reports to the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session, taking fully into account the efforts expended by countries of asylum, under the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions", and to present an oral report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2006.

[10] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

Draft resolution III
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office[1] and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its fifty-sixth session[2] and the conclusions and decisions contained therein,

Recalling its previous annual resolutions on the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since its establishment by the General Assembly,

Expressing its appreciation for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner, commending the staff and implementing partners of the Office of the High Commissioner for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities, and underscoring its strong condemnation of all forms of violence to which humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel are increasingly exposed,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its fifty-sixth session;[2]

2. *Welcomes* the important work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Executive Committee in the course of the year, and notes in this context the adoption of the general conclusion on international protection, the conclusion on the provision of international protection, including through complementary forms of protection, and the conclusion on local integration,[3] which are aimed at strengthening the international protection regime, consistent with the Agenda for Protection,[4] and at assisting Governments in meeting their protection responsibilities in today's changing international environment;

3. *Reaffirms* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[5] and its 1967 Protocol[6] as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime, recognizes the importance of their full and effective application by States parties and the values they embody, notes with satisfaction that one hundred and forty-six States are now parties to one instrument or to both, encourages States not parties to consider acceding to those instruments, underlines in particular the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement, and recognizes that a number of States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees;

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/60/12).
[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 12A* (A/60/12/Add.1).
[3] Ibid., chap. III, sects. A-C.
[4] Ibid., *Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/57/12/Add.1), annex IV.
[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.
[6] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

4. *Notes* that fifty-eight States are now parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons[7] and that thirty States are parties to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,[8] and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his activities on behalf of stateless persons;

5. *Notes with interest* the Mexico Plan of Action to Strengthen International Protection of Refugees in Latin America,[9] endorsed by States participating in the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration on Refugees[10] convened in Mexico City in November 2004, and expresses its support for the efforts of interested States and the Office of the High Commissioner to promote its implementation, with the cooperation and assistance of the international community;

6. *Welcomes* the successful conclusion of the process entitled "Follow-up to the 1996 Geneva Conference on the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Migration and Asylum Issues" in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and encourages States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant actors to continue to work collaboratively, building on the successes of the Conference process to date;

7. *Re-emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions;

8. *Urges* all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden and responsibility-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources with a view to enhancing the capacity of, and reducing the heavy burden borne by, countries that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers, and calls upon the Office to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes as well as the economic, environmental and social impact of large-scale refugee populations in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition;

9. *Emphasizes* that international protection of refugees is a dynamic and action-oriented function that is at the core of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and that it includes, in cooperation with States and other partners, the promotion and facilitation of, inter alia, the admission, reception and treatment of refugees in accordance with internationally agreed standards and the ensuring of durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups and paying special attention to those with specific needs, and notes in this context that the delivery of international protection is a staff-intensive service that requires adequate staff with the appropriate expertise, especially at the field level;

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[7] Ibid., vol. 360, No. 5158.

[8] Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

[9] Available from http://www.unhcr.org.

[10] *International Journal of Refugee Law*, vol. 3, No. 2 (April 1991).

10. *Notes* the activities undertaken in pursuit of the objectives of the Convention Plus initiative,[11] and encourages the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and interested States to strengthen the international protection regime through the development of specific, multilateral, comprehensive and practical approaches to resolving refugee situations, including improving international burden and responsibility-sharing and realizing durable solutions within a multilateral context;

11. *Welcomes* the progress that has been achieved in increasing the number of refugees resettled and the number of States offering opportunities for resettlement, notes that the Multilateral Framework of Understandings on Resettlement[12] sets out the strategic use of resettlement as part of a comprehensive approach to refugee situations aimed at improving access to durable solutions for a greater number of refugees, and invites interested States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant partners to make use of the Framework, where appropriate and feasible;

12. *Recalls* the important role of effective partnerships and coordination in meeting the needs of refugees and other displaced persons and in finding durable solutions to their situations, welcomes the efforts under way, in cooperation with countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, including their respective local communities, United Nations agencies and other development actors, to promote a framework for durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, which includes the "4Rs" approach (repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction) to sustainable return, and encourages States, in cooperation with United Nations agencies and other development actors, to support, inter alia, through the allocation of funds, the development and implementation of the 4Rs and other programming tools to facilitate the transition from relief to development;

13. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking permanent solutions to refugee problems, and recalls that these solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported by necessary rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

14. *Acknowledges* that the provision by States of complementary forms of protection to ensure that persons in need of international protection actually receive it is a positive way of responding pragmatically to certain situations, and affirms that measures to provide complementary forms of protection should be implemented in a manner that strengthens the existing international refugee protection regime;

15. *Notes* that local integration in the refugee context is a sovereign decision and an option to be exercised by States guided by their treaty obligations and human rights principles and that it is a dynamic and multifaceted two-way process that requires efforts by all parties concerned, including a preparedness on the part of refugees to adapt to the host society without having to forego their own cultural

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[11] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/59/12), chap. III, para. 23.

[12] Available from http://www.unhcr.org.

identity and a corresponding readiness on the part of host communities and public institutions to welcome refugees and to meet the needs of a diverse population, and acknowledges that the process of local integration is complex and gradual, comprising three distinct but interrelated legal, economic and social and cultural dimensions, all of which are important to the ability of refugees to integrate successfully;

16. *Acknowledges* that the global refugee situation represents an international challenge requiring that international burden and responsibility-sharing be addressed effectively, and recognizes that allowing for local integration, where applicable, is an act of States that is a durable solution for refugees, which contributes to the said burden and responsibility-sharing, without prejudice to the specific situation of certain developing countries facing mass influxes;

17. *Emphasizes* the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have been determined not to be in need of international protection, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a safe and humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

18. *Condemns* all acts that pose a threat to the personal security and well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers, such as refoulement, unlawful expulsion and physical attacks, and calls upon all States of refuge, in cooperation with international organizations where appropriate, to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, including the humane treatment of asylum-seekers;

19. *Affirms* the importance of mainstreaming the protection needs of women and children to ensure their participation in the planning and implementation of programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and State policies and the importance of according priority to addressing the problem of sexual and gender-based violence;

20. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to improve its management systems and to ensure effective and transparent use of its resources, recognizes that adequate and timely resources are essential for the Office to continue to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it through its statute[13] and by subsequent General Assembly resolutions concerning refugees and other persons of concern, recalls its resolutions 58/153, 58/270 of 23 December 2003 and 59/170 of 20 December 2004, concerning the implementation of paragraph 20 of the statute of the Office, and urges Governments and other donors to respond promptly to annual and supplementary appeals issued by the Office for requirements under its programmes;

21. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on his activities to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.

[13] Resolution 428 (v), annex.

18. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors (A/60/300).